

Nutria



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- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not provide nuisance nutria control
- Wire fencing can protect individual seedlings from foraging nutria
- For more information on hunting and trapping nutria: [Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)
- For more information on Louisiana's nutria control program: [LDWF Nutria Control Program](#)

Biological Information

Distribution: throughout Louisiana, coastal areas of Texas, Mississippi and Florida, Maryland, Oregon, Washington, Alabama, & Georgia

Habitat: swamps, marshes, rivers, lakes, streams, back waters. They dig burrows for dens in levees and stream banks; in marshes and swamps they rest on platforms of vegetation built above water.

Appearance: looks like a large, brown rat; average adult weight is 12 to 16 pounds; webbed hind feet; glands near the mouth, which are used to waterproof the fur; mammary glands on the sides, so infants can nurse while the mother swims

Food habits: eats aquatic plants such as three-cornered grass, cattail, duck-weed, & occasionally water hyacinth

Habits: den is shared by a dominant male, 2 or 3 females and their offspring

Reproduction: sexual maturity at 5 1/2 months; 2 litters per year; average litter size is 5; females are only capable of producing 6 litters in a lifetime

Controls: prey of alligators, cottonmouths, hawks, owls and eagles; parasites include flatworms, roundworms, fleas, and lice

Facts: usually have a negative impact on other wildlife species and often over-harvest edible plants resulting in "eat-outs"; burrowing causes problems with dams, dikes, and levees; roundworms can infest the water where nutria swim and then be passed on to humans